

What Is Claimed Is

1. A process for making a bandcast tobacco sheet comprising the steps of:  
  
preparing a slurry containing a solid mixture of from about 15 to 40% by weight tobacco, from about 15 to 50% by weight wood pulp, and from about 15 to 40% by weight binder, said solid mix being from about 2 to 8% by weight of water in said slurry;  
  
casting the slurry onto a casting surface; and,  
  
drying said slurry to form a sheet of bandcast tobacco.
2. The process of claim 1, said drying being at 180°F to 220°F.
3. The process of claim 1, said wood pulp being added to said slurry firstly, said tobacco being added to said slurry secondly, and said binder being added to said slurry thirdly, each of said wood pulp, tobacco, and binder being dissolved or dispersed before adding a next of said wood pulp, binder, and tobacco.
4. The process of claim 1 including the addition of up to 30% by weight of menthol in said solid mixture.
5. The process of claim 1, said tobacco being approximately 27% by weight of said mixture, said wood pulp being approximately 13.5% by weight of said mixture, said binder being approximately 27% by weight of said mixture, said mixture including additionally menthol at approximately 20% by weight.

6. The process of claim 1, said binder being an alginate.
7. The process of claim 6, said alginate being sodium alginate.
8. The process of claim 1 including the addition of a humectant.
9. The process of claim 8, said humectant being glycerine.
10. The process of claim 9, said glycerine being up to 30% by weight of said mixture.
11. The process of claim 1 further comprising:  
  
cutting said sheet of bandcast tobacco into longitudinal strips;  
  
inserting a plurality of said longitudinal strips of said bandcast tobacco into a cigarette  
adjacent a column of tobacco.
12. A process for making a bandcast tobacco sheet comprising the steps of:  
  
preparing a slurry including wood pulp, binder, a humectant, tobacco, and a  
flavoring, said wood pulp being from 5 to 15% by weight and dispersed firstly  
into said slurry, said tobacco being from 15 to 40% by weight and dispersed  
secondly into said slurry, said binder being 15 to 40% by weight and dispersed  
thirdly into said slurry, said humectant being up to 30% by weight and dispersed  
fourthly into said slurry, and then up to 30% by weight of menthol being  
dispersed lastly into said slurry, said slurry having a total solids content being 2%  
to 8% by weight of said slurry;

casting said slurry onto a casting band, said casting band being maintained at from  
180°F to 220°F; and,

drying said slurry to form a sheet of bandcast tobacco.

13. A cigarette comprising:

a tobacco column surrounded by an outer wrap paper; and,

a partial inner wrap material extending longitudinally of said tobacco  
column and disposed between said outer wrap, said partial inner wrap being one  
or more strips of a bandcast tobacco sheet which is comprised of from about 5 to  
15% by weight of wood pulp, from about 15 to 40% by weight of binder, and  
from about 15 to 40% by weight of tobacco.

14. The cigarette of claim 13 including up to about 30% by weight of menthol in said inner  
wrap.

15. The cigarette of claim 14 wherein said menthol is approximately 20% by weight of said  
inner wrap.

16. The cigarette of claim 13 including up to about 30% by weight of a humectant in said  
inner wrap.

17. The cigarette of claim 16, said humectant being glycerine.

18. The cigarette of claim 17, said glycerine being approximately 13.5% by weight.

19. The cigarette of claim 13, said binder being an alginate.

20. The cigarette of claim 19, said alginate being sodium alginate.
21. The cigarette of claim 20, said sodium alginate being about 27% by weight.
22. The cigarette of claim 13, said tobacco and said binder being in a ratio of approximately 1.0 to 1.0.
23. A bandcast tobacco sheet which is comprised of from about 5 to 15% by weight of wood pulp, from about 15 to 40% by weight of binder, and from about 15 to 40% by weight of tobacco.
24. The sheet of claim 23 including up to about 30% by weight of menthol.
25. The sheet of claim 24 wherein said menthol is approximately 20% by weight of said sheet.
26. The sheet of claim 23 including up to about 30% by weight of a humectant.
27. The sheet of claim 26, said humectant being glycerine.
28. The sheet of claim 27, said glycerine being approximately 13.5% by weight.
29. The sheet of claim 23, said binder being an alginate.
30. The sheet of claim 29, said alginate being sodium alginate.
31. The sheet of claim 30, said sodium alginate being about 27% by weight.
32. The sheet of claim 23, said tobacco and said binder being in a ratio of approximately 1.0 to 1.0.

33

32. The sheet of claim 23 formed in a plurality of longitudinal strips, said strips inserted into a cigarette adjacent a column of tobacco.

34

33. The sheet of claim 32 wherein said plurality of longitudinal strips are a first and a second strip equidistant from each other.